Getting Off to a Successful Start

Presented by Robin Combs and Stephanie Wagner
Keys to a Successful Start

- Meet the Parents
- Practice Spontaneous
- Understand the Problem
- Brainstorm
- Incorporate Style
- Create a Schedule
Meet the Parents

- Obtain contact information
- Understand the commitment
- Review competition dates
- Review rules for outside assistance
- Learn about parent’s resources
- Create a meeting schedule
- Identify a judge
Practice Spontaneous

- At every meeting
- Can be used to solve the long term problem
- Coaches Spontaneous Workshop
  - December 3, William Henry Middle School, Dover
Understand the Problem

- Read the Problem, Read the Problem, Read the Problem, Read the Problem, Read the Problem, Read the Problem, Read the Problem, Read the Problem
- Read the Program Guide
- Read and submit clarifications
Read the Problem

- Creative Emphasis
- Spirit of the Problem
- Site, Setup, and Competition
- Scoring
- Glossary
Read the Program Guide

- Chapter 1
  - Coaching an Odyssey of the Mind team
  - Getting Started
  - Training Your team
- Chapter 3
  - Competition Components
- Chapter 5
  - Program Rules – Rules that Apply to all problems
  - Penalties
Read and Submit Clarifications

- Must be submitted by Feb. 15
- Chapter 3 of the Program Guide details the types of questions that will be clarified and how to submit those questions
- 2 Types
  - Team Specific
  - General
- Keep checking for clarifications until your last competition

http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/clarification/default.php
Brainstorm

- Start with a verbal spontaneous problem
- There is no such thing as a bad idea
- Encourage outrageous ideas
- One idea may trigger another
- Have a leader ask ‘what if’ questions
- Record all ideas
- Have fun!
Brainstorming Exercise

- Volunteers:
  - Moderator
  - Scribe
  - Leader

- Name places you might find food
Incorporate Style

- Elements that enhance the performance
  - 2 Required
  - 2 Free Choice
  - Overall effect of the four Style elements in the performance
- Items that are already being scored should be avoided
- Be specific when defining free choice
Create a Schedule

- Identify tasks
- Form committees
- Assign tasks
- Establish a timeline
  - Everything takes 2x as long as you plan
- Remain flexible
Questions?